

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 14, 2004. To clarify various aspects of inventive subject matter, Applicants amend Claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 28, and 29. Applicants also introduce new Claims 42-44 and cancel Claims 3-7, 17-21, and 31-35 without prejudice or disclaimer. To advance prosecution of this application, Applicants have responded to each notation by the Examiner. Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are allowable over the cited references. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, further examination, and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's statement that Claims 4, 7, 18, 21, 32, and 35 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Although Applicants believe all original claims are allowable, to expedite issuance of this application Applicants have rewritten independent Claims 1, 15, and 28 to include elements similar to those from Claims 7, 21, and 35, respectively. Moreover, Applicants introduce new independent Claims 42, 43, and 44 that include subject matter similar to allowable Claims 4, 18, and 32, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 1, 15, 28, and 42-44, and all claims depending therefrom.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to Claims 1-2, 7, 15, 21, 28-29, and 35 because of various informalities. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 28, and 29, and have cancelled Claims 7, 21, and 35 to address the informalities identified by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, 12, 14, 16-17, 19, 22-24, 27-31, 33, 36-38, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,805,588 issued to Petersen ("*Petersen*"). Without addressing the veracity of the Examiner's art rejections with respect to independent Claims 1 and 28, and solely for the purpose of advancing this case expeditiously to issuance, Applicants amend independent Claims 1 and 28 to include

limitations similar to various aspects of the allowable subject matter contained in Claims 7 and 35, respectively. Applicants explicitly reserve the right to traverse some or all of these rejections in another application. Applicants respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and full allowance of amended Claims 1 and 28, and all claims depending therefrom.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejects Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Petersen*. The Examiner also rejects Claims 6, 11, 13, 20, 25-26, 34, and 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Petersen* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,717,955 B1 issued to Höller (“Höller”). Without addressing the veracity of the Examiner’s art rejections with respect to independent Claim 15, and solely for the purpose of advancing this case expeditiously to issuance, Applicants amend independent Claim 15 to include limitations similar to various aspects of the allowable subject matter contained in Claim 21. Applicants explicitly reserve the right to traverse some or all of these rejections in another application. Applicants respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and full allowance of amended Claim 15 and all claims depending therefrom.

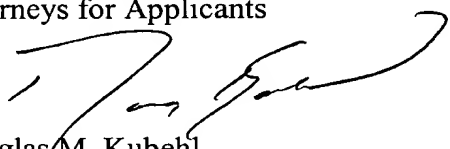
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims.

Applicants have included a check for \$258.00 for the additional claims. Applicants believe that no other fees are due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If the Examiner feels that a conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, Douglas M. Kubehl stands willing to conduct such a telephone interview at the convenience of the Examiner. Mr. Kubehl may be reached at 214-953-6486.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 9-14-04

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